174. Reform of the Public Service.

MR. P. K. JOSEPH (*Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam*) said that the superior officers of the Government did not realise the grievances of the people ; nor was there sufficient facility for appraising them of their grievances. The officers observed a distance and seldom moved with the masses. If any one proceeded to check the irregularities of an officer, he would be subjected to all manner of hardships not only from that officer, but from other officers as well. The Member who informed the authorities of the defalcation in the Kayankulam Municipality was harassed in many ways. He was prosecuted for putting up a sign-board on the street ; his bills were not paid. Again, as an instance of the trouble caused by officers, he mentioned the theft of a gold *aranjanam* and said that, for fear of being harassed by the authorities, information regarding it had to be suppressed. If a member of a municipal council should be placed in such a plight, he asked what the case of a man in the street would be !

The same attitude of the officers was the cause of corruption also. When one could not get a thing done by an officer to which he was entitled, necessarily it resulted in tipping. As giving bribe was an offence, the man who gave it was not bold enough to take steps or complain against an officer who took it. The Government should consider these matters sympathetically. With a view to remedy the state of affairs, appointments should be made with sole regard to purity and efficiency of the service to whichever community the person appointed might belong. It might be asked what was the standard by which these could be attained. The Member said he had only to say in reply that it depended on the attitude of mind of the supreme administrative head. The Government should encourage those who informed them of the irregularities of their officers ; they should also punish such of their officers severely.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Joseph, your subject is hardship caused to the people by the irregularities and corruption of public servants and suggestions to reform the public service. You have told us of the great gold *aranjanam*. May I charge it to you as the first duty of a responsible member of this Assembly, when, as you say, it is within your personal knowledge that a crime has been committed, to go and lay it before the Commissioner of Police. May I take it that you will go to him before you leave Trivandrum? To suppress such knowledge, and speak of the matter in general terms in the Assembly, is a failure of duty on the part of a loyal and dutiful citizen.

You also refer to certain other matters in your representation—the sign-boards, the monies, certain notices and changes. I leave it to your sense of duty to give me a written statement with full particulars of the names, witnesses etc., which will enable me to deal out justice to these men.

175. Public Service in relation to public weal.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that it was with diffidence and hesitation that he spoke on the subject of 'public service in relation to public weal,' which title was advisedly given by him to draw attention to the grievances of the Jacobite Community to which he belonged. There were not many high officers in the State who belonged to that community. The only office to which a member of the community was appointed in recent years was the Principalship of the Law College—the appointment of Mr. E. J. John. Even that appointment which was praiseworthy in every way was the subject of attack by one of the Members of the House. Again, the unpleasant and ungracious way in which a reference was made by one of the Members to an act of humanity, if not of justice, done by the Government—the grant of a compassionate allowance to the widow and children of Mr. Philip, Inspector of Police—filled his heart with immense pain. He therefore protested against the statements made.

Admittedly, it was the right of every citizen to expect good government, efficient government, and no government had a right to exist which did not exist in the interests of the governed. So long as appointments loomed large in the eye of the people, whatever the cause might be, there was bound to be friction. The officers of Government should learn to serve the State and be of help to the poor citizen on whose patience rested every civilized society and government. It would be a good thing if the officers took a vow that they would help and guide the poor

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